

MINUTES
BUDGET MONITORING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1998 - 12:00 P.M.
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING - ROOM #113

Present: Jim Gordon, Mike Thurber, Dave Kroeker, Kathy Campbell, Kerry Eagan

Absent: Gary Lacey, Darlene Tussing, Mike Alesio, Bill Tomek, Kim Kuhle, Ron Krejci

Kroeker distributed a handout to the committee containing the following information: property tax rates for a taxpayer in Lincoln for the last ten fiscal years, the 1998-99 proposed budget, FY 99 budget comparison with FY 98, FY 99 requested employees by agency compared to FY 98, calculation of restricted funds for FY 98-99, and building fund budget. He noted the County levy for FY 98 was 29.66 cents per hundred dollars of value, and will drop to 27.80 cents in FY 99. The total FY 98 property tax on a house valued at \$100,000 was \$2,488.50. For FY 99 the tax will be \$2,386.37 on a house valued at \$115,000 and \$2,490.12 on a house valued at \$120,000. This means a valuation can increase 15% with no property tax increase.

Kroeker noted the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) levy will drop due to \$12 million in state aid received by LPS. He noted County state aid is down \$27,000 for this year. He cautioned that final property values have not yet been received and, therefore, the final levy figures may change. Also, he noted that the State Auditor is now requiring the noxious weed fund be included in the general fund. A total of \$90,000 is in the noxious weed fund.

The Public Defender budget increased 19% for FY 99, mostly due to LB 1041. The County Attorney budget is up significantly also, but this increase is partially covered by an additional \$200,000 in revenue from federal and state grants.

The Engineer's budget reflects an increase in the number of miles being paved from 3-4 to 5-6.

Kroeker explained how the general fund had been divided into three categories: 1) justice, 2) general government, and 3) health & human services. Appropriations under the grants fund increased \$12 million due to the Medicaid Intergovernmental Transfer Payment. Lancaster Manor will receive \$10,000 in consideration of facilitating the transfer. Even though the medicaid reimbursement is passed on directly to the state, the amount of the transfer must still be appropriated in the county budget.

For justice related agencies, Kroeker noted an 11% increase in property tax dollars. Pursuant to LB 695, Corrections will receive between \$300,000 and \$500,000 of reimbursement from the State. Campbell noted that LB 1041 (Safe Families Act), the County Attorney will receive some reimbursement from the State for increased expenses, but no reimbursement will be received by the Public Defender. Campbell stated this information should be passed on to Gordon Kissel, Lancaster County Lobbyist.

Campbell also noted that the increase in full-time employees at Lancaster Manor will not be funded by a property tax increase.

Kroeker briefly discussed the calculation of restricted funds pursuant to LB 989. He noted an increase of 4.1% in restricted funds for the County in FY 99. He noted the County budget could have been increased another \$5-6 million under the lid.

The building fund was discussed briefly. Kroeker noted that the new Attention Center is the big item in this budget.

Motor vehicle fees in Lancaster County are expected to decrease \$700,000. A reduction of \$380,000 for FY 98 and \$320,000 for FY 99.

The next meeting is set for August 18, 1998. The agenda will include a discussion of the fifteen cent rural levy and how the County was affected during the last legislative session. Finally, it was noted that a time will be scheduled in the fall to see the Attention Center.